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RANKLIN & MARSHALL
COLLEGE LIBRARY

Sub-Committee Report

on

EDUCATION for MATURITY

Pennsylvania Governor's Conference on Aging
September 13 - 14, 1960 Harrisburg, Penna.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FOR MATURITY

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GOVERNOR'S WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE AGING

EDUCATION FOR MATURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

EDUCATION FOR MATURITY IS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF LIFELONG LEARNING. EDUCATION IS NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE NEEDS OF ADULTS SO THAT THE LATER YEARS MAY BE FILLED WITH HAPPY, USEFUL EXPERIENCES.

THE COUNTY REPORTS INDICATE THAT EDUCATION FOR OLDER PERSONS VARIES AMONG THE COMMUNITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH. SOME COMMUNITIES HAVE DEVELOPED COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS, BUT IN MANY COMMUNITIES NO WELL-DEFINED EDUCATION PROGRAM IS EVIDENT. ONE COUNTY REPORTS THAT MANY OF THE COMMUNITIES IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA HAVE NO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OR NEED FOR ORGANIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR MATURITY.

THIS REPORT IS AN ATTEMPT TO OUTLINE THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE OLDER PERSON AND TO RECOMMEND ACTION TO MEET THESE NEEDS.

A. IMMEDIATE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AS INDICATED IN THE COUNTY REPORTS.

1. ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS NEED TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE EDUCATION OF THE ADULT.
2. ADEQUATE FINANCING FOR FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS.
3. IN MOST AREAS OF THE COMMONWEALTH THERE IS A NEED FOR A COUNCIL OR A COMMITTEE OF COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH ADULT EDUCATION, SUCH AS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCHES, MANAGEMENT, UNIONS, SERVICE CLUBS, VOLUNTARY AND GOVERNMENTAL SOCIAL AGENCIES, ETC.
4. BETTER COMMUNICATION AMONG LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PROGRAMS.

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5. Transportation for older persons especially during evening hours.

6. Centers for guidance and information.

7. Educational programs and preretirement counselling to help people adjust to living on a reduced income.

8. Instruction concerning physiological changes and health needs.

B. Long term planning needs.

1. More concomitant instruction concerned with the aging is needed at all levels in the public schools.

2. In-service training is needed for professional and volunteer workers with the older person.

3. There is need for dissemination of information to promote a better public understanding of the problems of the aging.

4. Many areas of the Commonwealth have a need for increased public library facilities.

C. Recommendations.

1. Public school curricula at all levels should emphasize the value of the older person in society.

2. The Commonwealth should re-establish financial support for extension education to provide assistance to local school districts in the conduct of adult education programs. Programs conducted by other community agencies and organizations should be continued or a supplement to basic courses provided by the school district.

3. Information centers should be established for the

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE AVAILA-BILITY OF SERVICES FOR THE AGING, SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, REFERAL SERVICES, ETC.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCILS OR COMMITTEES SHOULD BE CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING A WELL BALANCED PROGRAM FOR ALL AGE GROUPS AND A BETTER LIAISON AMONG AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS CONDUCTING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

5. FELLOWSHIPS OR OTHER FINANCIAL AID SHOULD BE ESTAB-LISHED TO ASSIST THE OLDER PERSON WHO IS CAPABLE OF MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY THROUGH CREATIVE EFFORTS.

6. ADDITIONAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES FOR VOLUNTEER AND PROFESSIONAL WORKERS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED.

7. LIBRARY SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE OLDER PERSON SHOULD BE EXPANDED. THE 1958 STATEWIDE STUDY OF PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC LIBRARIES REVEALS THAT MOST LIBRARIES ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SERVICES; HOWEVER, ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AN AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ON SERVICE FOR THE AGING, WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

8. SCHOOL DISTRICT OWNED BUSES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR OLDER PERSONS ENROLLED IN ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AND/OR ORGANIZED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

9. A NON-PARTISAN, STATEWIDE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR ADULT EDUCATION SHOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO GIVE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT TO A PROGRAM OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA.

CONTINUING EDUCATION IS A VEHICLE BY WHICH ALL THE NEEDS OF THE AGING PERSON ARE MET. CONTINUING EDUCATION IS NOT THE EXCLUSIVE CONCERN OF ANY ONE AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION, BUT RATHER A COMMUNITY WIDE EFFORT. COMMUNITY PLANNING TAKES TIME. BEFORE ANY COMMUNITY CAN DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR ADULT EDUCATION, IT NEEDS LEADERSHIP AND COOPERATION TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE PATTERN OF TOTAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.